

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 04532 061202Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----068983 061203Z /43
O 061105Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1362

S E C R E T BELGRADE 4532

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS YO ET US
SUBJ: ALLEGED YUGOSLAV TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 154598

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC HAS ASKED TO SEE ME FRIDAY, JULY 8TH, PRESUMABLY TO GIVE THE GOY'S RESPONSE TO MY DEMARCHE ON THE TANKS. IN ABSENCE OF GUIDANCE TO THE CONTRARY, I PLAN TO RESPOND AS FOLLOWS:.

2. IF HE ADMITS DIVERSION, I WILL STATE THAT:
--THIS IS A MATTER OF PROFOUND CONCERN. AS AN ACT IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF US-YUGOSLAV AGREEMENTS GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IT MUST, UNDER US LAW, BE REPORTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO THE CONGRESS. THUS, THE MATTER CANNOT REMAIN ONLY A PRIVATE CONCERN BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. (SEE PARA 4, BELOW, FOR QUERY ON THIS ISSUE OF PUBLICITY).
--NOR CAN YUGOSLAV ACTION BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION FROM OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. IT INEVITABLY MUST PUT IN DOUBT STATED GOY DESIRE TO EXPAND MILITARY-TO-MILITARY COOPERATION. IT MUST ALSO RAISE, IN OUR MINDS, SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT GOY CREDIBILITY ON A

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BELGRA 04532 061202Z

RANGE OF EXISTING BILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS WITH THE USG, AS WELL AS FUTURE AGREEMENTS.

3. IF HE DENIES DIVERSION, I WILL:
--STATE THAT WE HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY (I WOULD LIKE TO BUT CANNOT GO BEYOND THIS UNLESS DEPARTMENT WILL AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF HARDER

INFORMATION AND TYLT BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FRIDAY).
--UNDERLINE THE PROFOUND CONCERN OF THE USG,
INDICATE I WILL REPORT HIS RESPONSE TO WASHINGTON, THEN
GET UP AND LEAVE.

4. I WILL USE THE INFORMATION IN REFTEL ON OUR HANDLING
OF PAST DIVERSION CASES (WITHOUT MENTIONING COUNTRIES
INVOLVED) ONLY IF MINIC ASKS. POTENTIAL PROBLEM THEY
RAISE FOR "OUR" CREDIBILITY (DEPENDING ON HOW FAR WE
CHOSE TO GO IN THIS CASE) IS THAT IN NONE OF THEM DID
WE GO BEYOND REPORT TO CONGRESS, AND AT LEAST IN ISRAELI
CASE EVEN THIS WAS DONE ON CLASSIFIED BASIS. CANNOT TELL
FROM REFTEL WHETHER OTHER CASES ALSO HANDLED ON
CLASSIFIED BASIS. ARE ALL SUCH CASES TREATED AS
CLASSIFIED, OR IS THE ISSUE DECIDED ON AN AD HOC BASIS?
EVEN IF CLASSIFIED, I ASSUME THE POSSIBILITIES OF A
LEAK ONCE CONGRESS IS NOTIFIED ARE HIGH.

5. PENDING MINIC ANSWER, I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD
TO OUR PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THINKING ABOUT ULTIMATE U.S.
RESPONSE. AS REQUESTED, WE ARE REPORTING BY SEPTTEL
WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT NATURE AND EXTENT OF YUGOSLAV ARMS
SALES CONTACTS WITH OTHER WESTERN SUPPLIERS.
EAGLEBURGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA04532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770239-0546
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770789/aaaaczqc.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90c7b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 154598
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1957632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED YUGOSLAV TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO ETHIOPIA
TAGS: MASS, YO, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90c7b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009